futureology
CUSD COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING

11th Grade Checklist

This is your most important year. **Hard work pays off**. The right combination of grades, recommendations, learning, activities, and test scores, can set you up as a great candidate to be both college and career ready!

Summer Before 11th Grade

Ready, set, prep.
There are so many things you can do to prepare for your Junior Year. College Admission Testing can be a part of that plan depending on the college or university you're interested in. While testing timelines are individual to every student we recommend before OR during the course of your Junior year that you take both a Practice SAT and ACT to determine your best fit test. This can be done before Junior Year begins or into the Fall semester as needed.

Futureology offers FREE practice exams throughout Fall and Spring with our partners at Revolution Prep

If you have questions about your specific testing timeline or requirements. Reach out to our team via email @ cusd-futureology@capousd.org

Throughout the Year

Your 4-year Plan	Review your four-year plan with your School Counselor. Make sure you're meeting 'A-G' eligibility requirements (i.e. UC/CSU).
Goals	Focus on your goals for academic and personal success. Discuss your college and/or career post-secondary options with your parents and your CUSD futureology college and career counselors.
Grades/GPA	**Make the grade**. Colleges place heavy emphasis on your junior year grades—so make sure your GPA is above average and trending upward this year. Monitor your grades regularly. Use study groups and tutors or office hours to get help from teachers. Take the most challenging academic program available **that fits you best**. Know what you can handle!
College Visits	Go to college campuses, & even explore virtual school tours
College Fair	Explore breakout sessions at the Annual CUSD College Fair! Learning about specific majors, programs, or even campuses can help you make better decisions later in your planning process. With over 150 college reps each year there's so many options to learn about!
Extracurricular Interests and Activities	Explore options such as clubs and community service. *Less is more – choose a few.* Instead of cramming your schedule with extracurriculars Focus on doing what you love. Colleges would much rather see you passionate about a few worthwhile endeavors that you commit too than marginally involved with a ton of options.
College and Career workshops	Attend any workshops hosted by your school or CUSD Futureology. Visit www.cusd-futureology.org for upcoming events!
Register for SAT or ACT	Visit www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org

Fall Semester

Take a Practice SAT and ACT	Take a practice SAT and ACT through CUSD's Practice Test Program (or on your own). This program gives you the opportunity to easily experience taking a college entrance test and will give you the ability to determine which test you ultimately favor by strength (or preference).
SAT or ACT	Register for and take the ACT **or** SAT exam if you are prepped, ready, and applicable to the colleges you're thinking about! • The landscape of college admissions testing has changed to see if a university is requiring these scores for admissions click HERE .
PSAT (official NMSQT held at school)	The preliminary SAT (PSAT) in October offers Juniors eligibility for National Merit BUT only recommended for those who have potential to be in the scholarship range (215+ on the index score) or if you have never taken a practice SAT. Preparation isn't necessary. The PSAT is just still a practice in a relatively relaxed way to become a skilled test taker. Your school will have information about this. Colleges won't see your scores so it cannot affect your record.
Meet with your School Counselor	Make sure you're meeting 'A-G' eligibility requirements.
College List	Begin building your preliminary college list. Start by thinking about the type of college learning environment you would do best in and what are college characteristics that are important to you. Use a search tool to find and compare colleges side by side.
Attend College Rep Visits	Admission Reps from colleges will be on your campus. Hear what they have to say and ask them questions.

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Spring Semester	
SAT or ACT	Register for and take the ACT **or** SAT exam if you are prepped, ready, and applicable to the colleges you're thinking about! • The landscape of college admissions testing has changed to see if a university is requiring these scores for admissions click HERE .
Register for appropriate AP tests/CLEP	*In May, take AP® exams for the AP classes you've taken*. More than 1,400 colleges and universities accept high scores on AP exams for course credits, helping you save time and money. If you are in an Advanced Placement course (and doing well), then you should take the corresponding AP exam (and possibly SAT Subject exam). Consider CLEP exams as well – offered in 33 subjects - get 2 shots at college credit.
Log your extracurricular activities	Create an activity list. Start saving examples of academic work, writing samples or artistic projects if applicable. This template can be a helpful starting point.
Career Exploration	Learn about various industries • College and Career Advantage for Career Technical Education programs or career related courses you can take junior year. • Attend Eureka! Map Your Future with other 9th/10th graders eager to learn more about the career planning process • Rewatch Career Panels in our Webinar Locker - we might have covered a topic you're interested in!
Continue saving money for college	Visit www.collegesavings.org to learn about tax advantages and links to plans. Visit www.studentaid.gov/parent for info on borrowing, aid, saving, and tax benefits.
Continue updating your file of important documents	Awards, activities, test scores, and hobbies!
College List	Continue to develop a preliminary list of colleges. Think about what you want in your prospective college. Does your initial list of colleges meet your needs and interests (academic program, location, cost, etc.)? Explore college websites and their requirements for admission. Narrow down your choices – focus on categorizing them by **reach**, **target**, and **safety** schools.
CUSD Futureology	See how we can help support your planning process and goals! Visit www.cusd-futureology.org
Take SAT Subject Tests (if applicable)	Many selective colleges require SAT Subject Tests. These one-hour exams are best taken immediately after completing the related class in school when the material is fresh in your mind (and if you are in the corresponding AP course).. You never know where you might decide to apply.
Senior Course Planning	Review course catalog and consider courses for senior year. Meet with your AA.
Letters of Recommendation	Seek out potential teachers, coaches, or staff for recommendations that begin in September Be intentional in getting to know teachers and counselors who may be writing your letters.
Scholarships	Start your active search for grants and scholarships.
Plan summer activities	Consider summer school courses, enrichment courses, volunteering, working, visiting colleges, or travelling.
Register for the SAT or ACT	If applicable, visit www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org.

Student- Athletes
Read the NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete. Register for eligibility from the NCAA or NAIA.
Use code "9999" to have your official SAT or ACT scores sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
Continue contact with coaches at colleges you may want to attend.
Develop an online profile including a video and resume highlighting your athletic and academic achievements.
Consider attending a summer sports camp at a college of interest.